

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 SCS-03 SCA-01 DHA-02  
NSC-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 INR-05 PRS-01  
SP-02 SSO-00 L-01 /050 W  
-----232157Z 055306 /67

R 231255Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3219  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 1744

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, ET

SUBJ: ACTIVITIES OF AMCIT DENTON COLLINS

1. EMB HAS BEEN ATTEMPTING DEAL WITH PROBLEM OF DENTON COLLINS, BAPTIST BIBLE FELLOWSHIP (BBF) MISSIONARY IN ADDIS. APPROXIMATELY ONE YEAR AGO, COLLINS FAMILY TOOK INTO THEIR HOME FOUR MINOR CHILDREN OF ROYAL FAMILY. CHILDREN HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY LIVING WITH THEIR AUNT. TWO OF THE CHILDREN ARE APPARENTLY DAUGHTERS OF ETHIOPIAN DEMOCRATIC UNION LEADER MENGESHA SEYOUM. COLLINS' WIFE AND CHILDREN RECENTLY LEFT ETHIOPIA AND COLLINS HIMSELF PLANS DEPART THIS SUMMER. THROUGH VARIOUS SOURCES, INCLUDING BRITISH AMB, EMB HAS LEARNED THAT COLLINS HAS BEEN CONSIDERING PLAN TO TAKE CHILDREN ILLEGALLY FROM ETHIOPIA. BRITISH AND MISSIONARY COMMUNITY, FOR OBVIOUS REASONS, SHARE OUR FEARS OF OUTCOME OF ANY ATTEMPT BY COLLINS, WHETHER SUCCESSFUL OR NOT.

2. COLLINS WAS QUESTIONED BY EPMG SECURITY OFFICIALS MAR 22 ON HOW HE CAME TO HAVE CUSTODY OF CHILDREN AS WELL AS HIS FUTURE PLANS. EPMG NO DOUBT SUSPICIOUS  
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OF COLLINS, AND MAY HAVE CHILDREN UNDER SURVEILLANCE.

3. EMB HAS ATTEMPTED IN STRONGEST TERMS DISSUADE COLLINS FROM ANY ATTEMPT TO TAKE CHILDREN FROM ETHIOPIA AND INDICATED TO HIM POTENTIAL REPERCUSSIONS TO HIM, CHILDREN, AND AMERICAN AND MISSIONARY COMMUNITIES. EMB HAS ASKED MISSIONARY COMMUNITY TO DO

LIKewise. FOR THE PRESENT, COLLINS APPEARS TO HAVE TEMPORARILY ABANDONED HIS PLAN ON BELIEF THAT IT TOO WIDELY KNOWN AND THAT EPMG MAY ALSO BE AWARE HIS INTENTIONS.

4. PROBLEM COULD WELL SURFACE AGAIN. RELIABLE MISSIONARY LEADER IN ADDIS INDICATES COLLINS WIFE HAS RECEIVED "CALL FROM GOD" TO HELP CHILDREN ESCAPE FROM ETHIOPIA AND EFFORTS OF TEMPORAL AUTHORITIES SUCH AS EMB TO DISSUADE HIM MAY TURN OUT TO BE UNSUCCESSFUL. WHEN EMBOFF SUGGESTED THAT EMB MIGHT GO OVER HIS HEAD TO BBF, COLLINS TOTALLY UNAFFECTED. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES HOWEVER, EMB BELIEVES DEPT SHOULD CONTACT BBF (BOX 191, SPRINGFIELD, MO.) TO SEE IF THEY CAN BE OF ASSISTANCE. DEPT SHOULD STRESS TO BBF THAT A) COLLINS FACES IMPRISONMENT OR WORSE IF HIS PLANS BECOME KNOWN TO EPMG OR ARE UNSUCCESSFUL, B) CHILDREN FACE IMPRISONMENT OR WORSE, C) CHILDREN LEADING RELATIVELY NORMAL LIFE IN ETHIOPIA, D) RISK OF FAILURE IS HIGH, AND E) OUR ABILITY TO ASSIST COLLINS WILL BE SEVERELY LIMITED AS EPMG WILL VIEW ANY ATTEMPTED ESCAPE AS MOTIVATED BY POLITICAL RATHER THAN HUMANITARIAN REASONS. THEREFORE, FOR SAFETY OF COLLINS, CHILDREN, MISSIONARY AND AMERICAN COMMUNITY WE WOULD APPRECIATE BBF ATTEMPTING DETER COLLINS. WE WOULD PREFER, FOR SECURITY REASONS, THAT ANY MESSAGE FROM BBF TO COLLINS BE TRANSMITTED THROUGH OUR CHANNELS.

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009